

DOE Weekly Field Memo – November 25, 2009 – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

From the Department of Education:

- **Reminder of Required Survey: ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization Evaluation Survey**
- **Reminder: Kindergarten Readiness Survey for 2009-2010 – Deadline Extended**
- **Data Collection: Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) Team Implementation Checklist – Due December 15, 2009**
- **Education Technology Survey: Speak Up Survey 2009**
- **Grant Opportunity: “Fuel Up to Play 60” Mini Grants Now Available Through Vermont Action for Healthy Kids**
- **Gifted Education Student Award: Nicholas Green Award**

Reminder of Required Survey: ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization Evaluation Survey

Audience: Principals, Superintendents

Vermont is eligible to receive approximately \$94 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Statewide Fiscal Stabilization Fund. In FY 2010 the state received \$63 million, which will go in large part to support school budgets for FY2010 and 2011. In order to receive the remaining \$31 million, the state must have an approved State Plan reporting on several data elements, including the types of systems used to evaluate teachers and principals in our state.

The department sent a survey directly to principals and superintendents on November 16, 2009.

Principals should complete the Teacher Evaluation Survey and superintendents the Principal Evaluation Survey. This survey is only designed to collect information in order for Vermont to be eligible for future funds, and will not be used for any other purpose. The department must collect this information from every school in the state in order to submit our report in December. **The survey is due December 1, 2009.**

Contact: Anne Bordonaro at (802) 828-0411 or anne.bordonaro@state.vt.us or Glenn Bailey at (802) 828-2141 or glenn.bailey@state.vt.us

Reminder: Kindergarten Readiness Survey for 2009-2010 – Deadline Extended

Audience: Superintendents, Elementary Principals, Kindergarten Teachers

The Department of Education and the Agency of Human Services (AHS) request the support and assistance of superintendents, principals and kindergarten teachers in completing the Kindergarten Readiness Survey. This annual data collection enables the department/agency to monitor Vermont's progress toward the outcome of "all" children are ready for school. This year, the survey will be conducted online using Survey Monkey. Due to concerns raised by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) about protecting child level data online, neither the department nor AHS are asking teachers to provide any identifying information about themselves or their students; only that teachers enter the AHS district in which their school is located. **The deadline for completing the online survey has been extended to December 4, 2009.** Visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_earlyed.html#readiness to view the complete memo, a letter for kindergarten teachers, and the link to the survey.

Contact: Manuela Fonseca, (802) 828-3850 or manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us

Data Collection: Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) Team Implementation Checklist – Due December 15, 2009

Audience: PBS Coordinators/Coaches, Superintendents, Special Educators, Special Education Administrators

PBS Coordinators and Coaches must enter the PBS Team Implementation Checklist (TIC) online. The checklist is a data collection tool used by teams to monitor their progress in PBS implementation. This should be completed as part of the PBS December Leadership Team meeting. December, March and May are the months for online submission. **The survey must be completed between December 1 and 15, 2009.** For instructions, more information, and to complete the survey, visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_ess/pbs.html#checklist.

Contact: Sabine Baldwin at (802) 828-0183 or sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us.

Education Technology Survey: Speak Up Survey 2009

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Educators, Technology Coordinators, Parents

The 2009 online survey – open now through December 18 for all K-12 students, parents, teachers, pre-service teachers and administrators – offers the largest collection of authentic, unfiltered input on

education and technology from those 'on the ground' in the schools. For the first time, the survey will ask students about their interest in teaching careers and will include pre-service teachers to get a sense of how the next generation of teachers may differ (or reflect) the opinions of current educators. Please pass this information along to students, teachers and parents. Access the survey at

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_edtech.html#speak_up.

Schools and districts who participate in Speak Up gain free online access to their own aggregated quantitative data – with national benchmark data for comparison. National data findings will be released during two Congressional Briefings in spring 2010. **The survey closes December 18, 2009.**

Contact: Peter Drescher at (802) 828-5149 or peter.drescher@state.vt.us

Grant Opportunity: "Fuel Up to Play 60" Mini Grants Now Available Through Vermont Action for Healthy Kids

Audience: Principals and School Health Teams

Vermont Action for Healthy Kids announces funding for six grants to implement the *Fuel Up to Play 60* program. Fueled by the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans' *Food Groups to Encourage* and an easy to follow *Play 60* message, *Fuel Up to Play 60* is a free school wellness program to help empower students to lead the way to eating right and staying active. Schools in Vermont may apply for \$750 in funding to implement healthy eating and physical activity action strategies and a wellness promotion kickoff event using the *Fuel Up to Play 60* Wellness Activation Kit. Schools must be enrolled in the *Fuel Up to Play 60* program in order to apply. If you don't already have a copy of the Wellness Activation Kit, sign up for your free kit at www.FuelUpToPlay60.com. **The deadline to apply is December 4, 2009.**

Grants will be awarded December 11, 2009. For further information, please visit

www.actionforhealthykids.org or click [here](#) to apply.

Contact: Jill Goodroe at (802) 863-5416 or JGoodroe@NewEnglandDairy.com

DOE Contact: Lindsay Simpson at (802) 828-1461 or lindsay.simpson@state.vt.us

Gifted Education Student Award: Nicholas Green Award

Audience: Guidance Counselors, Educators, Gifted and Talented Students

The Vermont Council for Gifted Education (VCGE) is pleased to announce the National Association for Gifted Children Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award. This award, which includes a certificate and a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, will be made in every state to a student between grades 3 and 6 who has distinguished him/herself in academics, leadership, or the arts. VCGE is coordinating the Award Program in Vermont. For more information go to

<http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=558>

Application packets may be requested from Alice Maurer at maurer@gmavt.net. Completed applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2010. The winner will be announced in late March.

Contact: Alice Maurer at maurer@gmavt.net

DOE Contact: Noel Bryant at (802) 828-0215 or noel.bryant@state.vt.us

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.